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## STATE SHELTER SUBSIDY GRANT PROGRAM

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The State Shelter Subsidy Grant (SSSG) program provides up to 50% of an emergency shelter or voucher program's annual operating budget. These funds are available to programs with additional funding needs due to renovation/expansion of an existing shelter facility, the development of an existing building into a shelter facility, the expansion (or development) of shelter services or the inability of a shelter program to obtain adequate funding to continue an existing level of service.

### **BACKGROUND**

Estimates of the homeless population in Wisconsin range up to 20,000 persons. The emergency shelter programs funded by SSSG provide approximately 650,000 nights of shelter to over 16,000 persons.

# **ELIGIBILITY**

An eligible applicant may be a county or municipal governing body or agency, a community action agency, or other private non-profit organization. Only generic emergency facility or voucher programs are eligible. Individuals and families who are homeless are eligible for shelter and related services. Domestic Abuse and Runaway shelters are not eligible for funding.

#### **FUNDING**

The \$1, 600,000 annual state appropriation is shared among Milwaukee County, Dane County, and balance of state areas and is available for three pre-determined allocations based on shelter use within each area. Grant amounts, which range from \$1,100 to \$60,000, are enhanced through the use of funds from the Interest Bearing Real Estate Trust Account (IBRETA) funds.

In Milwaukee and Dane Counties, a local shelter or service provider is the designated lead agency which works with other shelters to develop a plan for distributing funds earmarked for that community. This plan is submitted in their application to Division of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and must be endorsed by all shelters in that community.

The balance of state shelter programs apply directly to DHCD for a grant. Funds are distributed by formula to all eligible applicants. The formula is based on the estimated number of shelter nights each applicant provides compared to the total number of shelter nights the balance of state agencies estimate they will provide. No applicant may receive a grant greater than 50% of its operating budget.

The annual grant cycle for this program begins in late summer, when notices of available State Shelter Subsidy funding are sent to potential applicants. Applications, available on the DHCD website, are due to DHCD in fall and 12 month grant contracts begin in January.

For program information, contact:

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